

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AEC-05

H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 RSC-01 BIB-01 /082 R

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DRAFTED BY: OSD/ISA:LBIRD

APPROVED BY: ACDA/IR:DKLEIN

EUR/RPM:GCHRISTIANSON

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PM/DCA:CFLOWERREE

ACDA/IR:DLINEBAUGH

OSD/ISA:LMICHAEL

JCS:WWOOD

NSC:SHADLEY

S/S-WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 020905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR WORKING GROUP STUDY OF US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS

REF: A. STATE 263866; B. STATE 8353 C. NATO 7008

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D. NATO 151 E. NATO 229 F. NATO 341

1. WE APPROVE OF THE WORKING GROUP PAPER ON AIR MANPOWER, (REF 7) PARTICULARLY ITS FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, WE DO WISH TO CORRECT A MISIMPRESSION FOUND IN PARA 4C. WE HAVE SAID THAT THE EXACT COMPOSITION OF THE MANPOWER REDUCTION PACKAGES WOULD BE A MATTER FOR DETERMINATION AT A LATER POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, THE USG HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER AN EXPLICIT US COMMITMENT TO INCLUDE US AIR-MANPOWER IN ITS REDUCTION OF 15 PERCENT OF AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON A SIMILARLY EXPLICIT SOVIET COMMITMENT TO INCLUDE SOVIET AIR MANPOWER IN ITS REDUCTION OF 15 PERCENT OF AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF REQUIRED SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE DEFERRED WHILE NATO INTELLIGENCE REVIEWS THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS AND WE SEE HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS EVOLVE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 5E THE STAFF GROUP PAPER, US AIR

MANPOWER PAPER PRESENTED A SYNOPSIS OF POSSIBLE US AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WHICH WAS ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY AND BASED ON SUMMER 1974 FORCE STRUCTURE. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE OUTLINE WAS ONLY AN EXAMPLE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. IN ANY EVENT, US AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT A LEVEL WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE WITHDRAWAL OF US TACTICAL FIGHTERS IN EXCESS OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH OPTION III (IF IT IS PLAYED). IN GENERAL, REFERENCES TO REDUCTIONS IN COMBAT AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE CHANGED TO TACTICAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT SINCE THE C-130 IS A COMBAT AIRCRAFT IN US TERMINOLOGY AND COULD BE WITHDRAWN AS PART OF AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE REMARKS OF THE WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES WE WISH THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO BE MADE. THE US PROPOSALS WERE PRESENTED TO NATO IN THE EARLY AUTUMN. THEY WERE EXPANDED UPON IN DETAIL IN OUR DEC. 2 PAPER. WE BELIEVE THAT NATO HAS HAD MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY THOSE PROPOSALS AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FURTHER STUDY SHOULD EXTEND THROUGH THE NEXT ROUND OF  
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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. INDEED IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THESE PROPOSALS CAN BE MADE IN VIENNA DURING THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. SPECIFICALLY IN RESPONSE TO THE FRG STATEMENT THAT FURTHER ANALYSIS IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE US PROPOSALS WOULD MAINTAIN THE FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THE US PROPOSALS STILL CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AT LEAST 68,000 SOVIET GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL AND INDEED HOLDS

OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF EVEN MORE GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS BY THE SOVIETS. THUS WE BELIEVE PRIMA FACIE THAT THE US PROPOSALS MAINTAIN THE FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THE SHAPE AND CANADIAN QUESTIONS:

A) IT IS TRUE THAT THE DEGRADATION OF RESPONSIVENESS WOULD BE ONLY IN COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS;

B) THE DATA IN SECTION IIA DOES REPRESENT A REAL SAVINGS PER AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT REFLECT ANY CHANGE IN POLICY FOR AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE OR CIVILIANIZATION.

C) THE OVERALL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS FOR USAF REFLECTED IN THE 2 DECEMBER PAPER ARE BASED ON CURRENT AIRCRAFT, I.E. F-4 AIRCRAFT IN THE TACTICAL FIGHTER AREA. THUS THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT WHEN NEWER AIRCRAFT MODELS ARE INTRODUCED WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WITH LESS OF AN IMPACT ON THE CURRENT STRUCTURE OF USAF; HOWEVER, CURRENT PLANS DO NOT CALL FOR REPLACEMENT OF F-4S UNTIL FY 78.

D) RE PARA 6, NATO 341, REF F. A CEILING UPON SOVIET AIR MANPOWER RESULTING FROM REDUCTIONS SHOULD, IN GENERAL, INHIBIT MODERNIZATION OF SOVIET AIR FORCES IN THE NGA BECAUSE SOVIET MAN TO AIRCRAFT RATIOS ARE INCREASING FOR THEIR NEWER AND MORE SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. OF COURSE, THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIET AIR FORCE MAY CHOOSE TO REDUCE COMMAND, STAFF AND SUPPORT ELEMENTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY OF FLYING UNITS. US INTELLIGENCE HAVE FOUND NO INDICATION THAT SOVIET TECHNOLOGY HAS REACHED THE POINT AT WHICH THE MAN TO  
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AIRCRAFT RATIO HAS BEGUN TO DECLINE.

4. WE ARE TRANSMITTING SEPTTEL ANSWERS TO BRITISH, GERMAN AND DUTCH QUESTIONS. KISSINGER

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